

Testimony of Joe Miano, President of the Towing and  
Recovery Professionals of Connecticut  
On House Bill 6549  
An Act Concerning Wreckers

Good afternoon Senator DeFronzo, Representative Guerrera and members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Joe Miano, President of the Towing and Recovery Professionals of Connecticut (TRPC). I'm here to speak in support of House Bill 6549, An Act Concerning Wreckers.

Simply put, Section 1(a) (1) would require that all wreckers be registered and carry wrecker plates. Those of us who operate licensed towing companies have to pay liability insurance, workers compensation, unemployment insurance, property taxes, social security as well as DMV registration fees and many other obligations. Yet we find ourselves competing against "gypsy towers" who operate illegally out of a residential garage by putting commercial plates on their tow truck. Obviously, their fees are much lower than ours because when you operate illegally you don't follow state and federal regulations. This problem is easily remedied by changing a few words in the statutes.

Section (b) deals with the lights we are required to have on our trucks. The eight foot light bar that we are currently required to have is not standard equipment on a tow truck because Connecticut is the only state that requires it. It costs us an additional \$1,400 every time we purchase a truck. We are also required to have a spotlight that can be seen in all directions. That is not necessary and, in fact is can be dangerous when oncoming traffic is blinded by our lights. Our proposed change would require lighting directed toward the hoisting equipment in the rear where our work is done.

State police officials are in agreement with our position on these two issues.

Finally, section (c) requires that all tow trucks be registered as a wrecker and pay the \$125 DMV registration fee.

I would be remiss if I didn't express our support for the "move over" law that you are considering this year. Working on the highways is dangerous business and we should do everything possible to make the lives of public safety officers and emergency workers as safe as possible.

I thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today and I'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.